Fries contain excessive calories that may cause obesity in children thereby exposing them to lot of health disorders. As per PFA Act, every package of food article have to carry the list of ingredients in descending order of their composition by weight/volume as the case may be.

Financial assistance for Mother and Child Health Programme

2048. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has requested for financial assistance from the Japanese International Cooperative Agency for its project 'Mother and Child Health Programme' for Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore and attached teaching hospitals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Government of Karnataka seeking financial assistance of Rs. 60.00 crores from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for improvement of 'Mother and Child Health Programme' for Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore and attached teaching hospitals was posed to the Government of Japan in May, 2001 for necessary funding.

Machinery to check fake doctors

2049. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported by the media in the past, there are still thousands of quacks or 'Jhola Chhaap Doctors' practicing medicine illegelly in many parts of the capital and throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether these quacks have acquired some professional degree or diplomas to practice medicine;

(c) if not whether Government have set up some machinery to keep a check and punish these quacks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Health being a State subject, information is not maintained centrally. Quacks do not possess the qualification prescribed by various councils in respective systems of medicine.

(c) and (d) Provisions already exist in the the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, to take action against unregistered practitioners of medicine. However, to make deterrent provision, Central Government initiated steps to formulate a model legislative proposal but no final view has been taken.

Subsidy on AIDS drugs

2050. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug manufacturers have agreed to make HIV/AIDS drugs available at lower prices;

(b) if so, the new princing range of the drugs;

(c) whether Government propose to give further subsidy on the cost of the medicines so that the drugs are available to poorer sections of the society also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government and industry are in dialogue over the modalities of making HIV/AIDS drugs available at lower prices.

(c) and (d) Government is actively contemplating expansion of a programme on care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS across the six high prevalence States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Negaland and Tamil Nadu, so as to include anti-retroviral drugs for specific target groups, through the public health- care system.